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23 June 1964  
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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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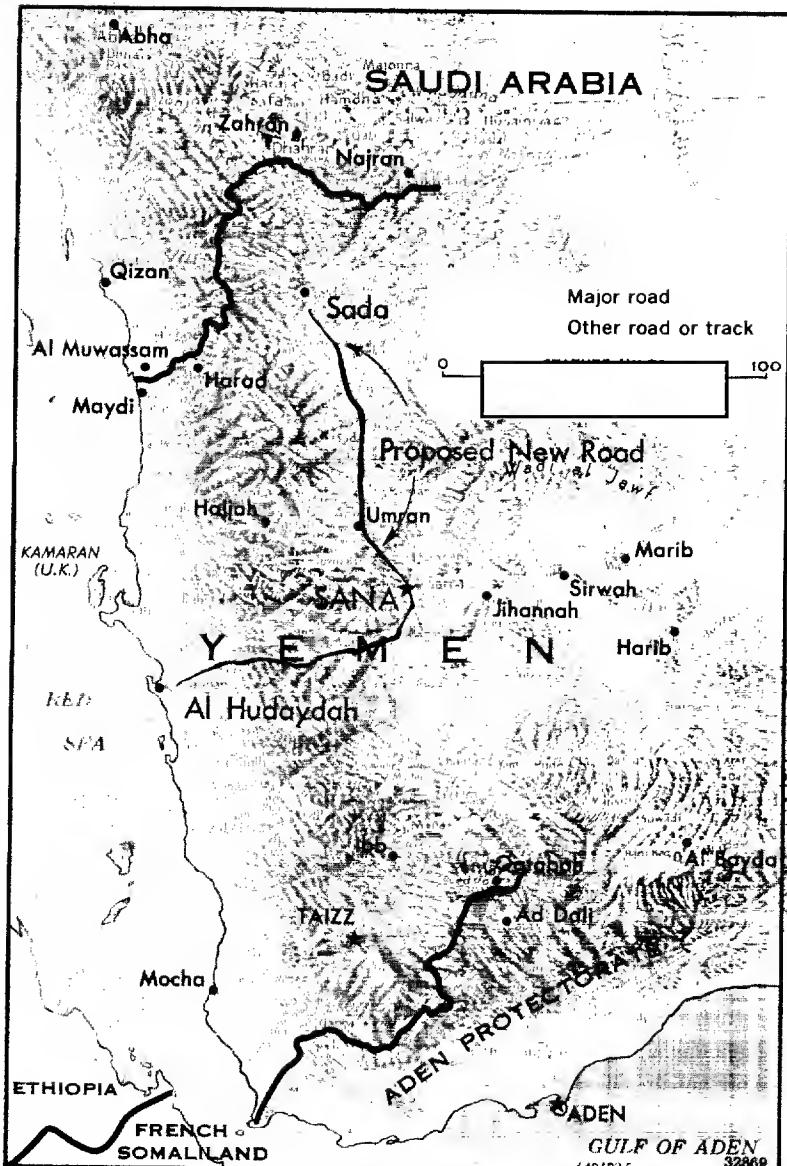
Mexico: Nationwide demonstrations are set for 12 July to protest against the high saline content of the Colorado River flowing from Arizona into Mexico.

For the past three years, the Lopez Mateos government has regarded the Colorado River salinity problem as the most serious issue in Mexican-US relations. The river's salinity has risen in recent months, and Mexican officials are increasingly convinced that a satisfactory solution is not in prospect.

The details of the demonstrations have not been completely worked out, but it seems certain that the protests have the government's approval. Indicative of this is the fact that powerful government-dominated labor organizations will play a prominent role.

The government's acquiescence in the protest movement reflects not only exasperation with the US, but also a belief that it is no longer politically feasible to suppress growing public resentment over the problem. With national elections two weeks off, the government probably feels compelled to take some action on this emotional issue to prevent Communists and their sympathizers from exploiting it.

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Communist China - Yemen: Peiping is continuing its drive for influence in Africa and the Middle East by extending a \$28-million, long-term credit to Yemen.

Under the terms of the 20-year, interest-free credit, the Chinese will build a new road from Sana to Sada, repair the Sana-Hudaydah road, and construct several buildings including a textile factory. A \$16-million Chinese credit extended in 1958 financed the original construction of the Sana-Hudaydah road, which was built by about 1,000 Chinese technicians and laborers.

So far this year Peiping has extended just under \$100 million in grants and credits to African and Middle Eastern countries as a part of its effort to counter Soviet and Western influence. Another sizable credit has reportedly been offered to the Sudan and some assistance has been offered to Burundi, [redacted]

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Peiping, whose economic assistance initially was extended primarily in Asia, has shifted emphasis to Africa and the Middle East. Last year all of China's new extensions of economic aid--about \$90 million--were applied to this area.

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